




# Pinocchio









*This LADYBIRD TALE  
belongs to*

.....



# Pinocchio



Retold by Audrey Daly  
with illustrations by Victoria Assanelli

LADYBIRD  TALES

THIS IS THE STRANGE story  
of a piece of wood – that became  
a puppet – that became a real  
live boy!

It all started when Antonio  
the carpenter took a piece  
of wood from the pile in the  
corner of his workshop. It was  
quite an ordinary piece of  
wood – nothing much to look  
at. Then, as Antonio raised his  
sharp axe to take off the bark,  
a little voice said, “Please don’t  
hit me too hard!”



Antonio was afraid. He looked all round his workshop, then down at the piece of wood. "No, no," he thought. "I'm dreaming." And lifting his axe once more, he hit the piece of wood very hard.

"Oh, you've hurt me!" cried the same little voice.

Now Antonio was really frightened, but just at that moment his friend Geppetto came to the door. Geppetto had no children of his own, and he wanted a piece of wood to make into a puppet that could dance and jump and move just like a real boy.



Thankfully Antonio gave him the piece of wood that had given him such a fright. Geppetto went off with it happily and began to make his new puppet right away. "I shall call him Pinocchio," he thought as he worked. "That's a good name."

As soon as he made the puppet's face, its eyes moved and its mouth laughed. Then, as Geppetto finished the feet, Pinocchio kicked him on the nose.

Geppetto was pleased with his new puppet, in spite of its tricks. He showed Pinocchio how to walk, one foot in front of the other.



Instantly the puppet ran into the street! Geppetto ran after him, but he was too slow.

Pinocchio ran along the street and straight into the arms of a policeman! The policeman gave him back to Geppetto, but the other people in the street felt sorry for Pinocchio. They said that Geppetto was a bully.

The policeman listened to them, and he took Geppetto to prison.

While poor Geppetto was being taken to prison for something he hadn't done, Pinocchio ran home. He lay down in the house, very pleased with himself.



Then he heard a little voice not far away. Pinocchio was frightened. He turned and saw a big cricket walking slowly up the wall.

“I’m the talking cricket,” it said. “There’s something I must tell you.”

“Chirp away, Cricket,” said Pinocchio. “It makes no difference to me what you say. I’m running away from here tomorrow. If I don’t, I shall have to go to school like other boys. I don’t want to learn anything. I don’t want to work. All I want to do is have a good time.”



The cricket sighed. “I’m really sorry for you, Pinocchio. You’ll end up in prison.”

This made Pinocchio so cross that he threw a hammer at the cricket – and the cricket vanished.

Now Pinocchio was hungry, for he had eaten nothing all day.

The only food in the house was an egg, but when Pinocchio tried to cook it, a chicken hatched out and flew away.

Pinocchio set out into the wet stormy night to find food, but no one would give him any.



At last he went home, put his feet by the fire to dry them and fell sound asleep.

Of course Pinocchio's feet were made of wood, so bit by bit they burnt away as he slept. Suddenly, there was a knock at the door. It was Geppetto!

The puppet tried to run to open the door – and fell on the floor.

“I can't open it,” he shouted.  
“My feet have gone.”

Geppetto was very cross as he climbed through the window. He thought Pinocchio was playing another of his tricks. Then he saw that the puppet really had no feet, and he was sorry.



Pinocchio was so hungry that Geppetto gave him his own breakfast of three pears. As soon as he had eaten them however, the puppet began to ask for new feet.

But Geppetto wanted to teach him a lesson, so he left him to cry for a long time.

At last Pinocchio promised to be good and go to school, and Geppetto made him two beautiful new feet. He even made him some clothes.

All Pinocchio needed now was a spelling book, but there was no money to buy one.



Geppetto was sad because he couldn't help. Then he had an idea. He ran out of the house into the snow, putting on his old coat as he went.

Soon he came back – with a spelling book, but without his coat. He had sold his coat to buy the book for his puppet son!

As soon as the snow stopped, Pinocchio set out for school. As he went, he told himself that one day he would earn lots of money to buy Geppetto a really beautiful coat to repay him.



Suddenly there was the sound of music in the distance. What could it be? Pinocchio stood still, listening. Then he made up his mind. He could always go to school tomorrow instead. He ran towards the sound of the music.

The music came from the Great Puppet Theatre! But Pinocchio had no money to go in. He thought for a moment, then he sold his spelling book for two pence. Poor Geppetto, shivering at home in the cold because he bought Pinocchio a spelling book!

But Pinocchio had forgotten all about Geppetto.



★GREAT★  
PUPPET  
THEATRE  
★

As he went into the theatre he felt really at home. The puppets welcomed him warmly and the play stopped as they said hello.

The puppets had a master called Fire-eater. He was very fierce, with a long black beard. He saw that the play had stopped because of Pinocchio, and he was angry.

At first he was going to throw Pinocchio on the fire. Then he decided to forgive him and put Harlequin on the fire instead.

But brave Pinocchio said he would die. At last Fire-eater forgave them both.

The puppets were so happy that they clapped and danced all night.



Next day, Fire-eater gave Pinocchio five gold coins to take to his father, Geppetto, and sent him home very pleased with himself.

Pinocchio was determined to be good this time, but he was soon in trouble again.

He met a wicked fox who pretended to be lame, and a cat who pretended to be blind. They tried to steal his money, but he ran away from them.

The villains chased after Pinocchio and caught him! They were so cross that they tied Pinocchio to an oak tree and left him all alone.



A little while later, a girl with blue hair saw him from her house nearby. She was really a fairy in disguise, and she sent her servants to help the puppet.

The fairy gave Pinocchio some medicine to make him well, then she asked him his story. Pinocchio told the truth to start with.

Then when he came to the part about the gold pieces, he told a lie. He said he had lost them, but they were in his pocket!



As soon as he told this lie,  
Pinocchio's nose grew two inches  
longer! Then he told another lie –  
and his nose grew longer still,  
and went on growing.

The puppet's nose grew so  
long because of his lies that  
he couldn't get out of the door.

The fairy laughed and laughed  
at Pinocchio as she watched,  
and he began to cry. He cried  
and cried for a long time before  
the fairy forgave him for telling  
lies. Then, at last, she called in  
some woodpeckers to help him.  
They pecked and pecked at his  
nose until it was the right length  
again, and Pinocchio was happy  
once more.



The fairy was fond of Pinocchio, even though he was so naughty. She wanted him to stay with her. Pinocchio said he was going home to his father Geppetto, but the fairy said that Geppetto was coming to stay, too!

Pinocchio was so pleased and excited when he heard this that he set out to meet Geppetto. He hadn't seen him for a long time.

Pinocchio was looking forward to seeing Geppetto again, but it was not to be. The wicked fox and cat turned up once more, and stole his gold pieces. When Pinocchio told a policeman about it, *he* was put in prison – for four whole months. He couldn't understand this at all.



When he came out of prison,  
the puppet went back to find the  
fairy. When he came to the right  
place, the house was nowhere to  
be seen!

As Pinocchio stood there crying  
because his fairy had gone,  
a pigeon flew down. It told him  
that Geppetto was so unhappy  
that he had gone to sea in a boat  
to look for Pinocchio. This made  
the puppet cry even more because  
he missed Geppetto, too.



The pigeon was sorry for him.  
It took him on its back to  
the sea to find Geppetto.  
Once more Pinocchio was  
unlucky – a dolphin told him  
that Geppetto had been swallowed  
by a terrible shark!

Now Pinocchio found himself  
on an island where everyone  
worked so hard that they were  
called Busy Bees. Pinocchio was  
hungry – but he wasn't going to  
work for his food.

Soon he was so hungry that he  
had to work. He helped a woman  
to carry some water. When she  
gave him some food, he saw she  
was his own fairy! He had found  
her again.



Pinocchio told the fairy he was tired of being a puppet. He wanted to become a real live boy.

She said he could only become a real boy if he was good and obedient. He must never tell lies, and he must go to school.

So Pinocchio went to school.

He worked so hard that he became top of his class, and the fairy was pleased. She promised that soon he would become a real boy.

But there were bad boys in the class. They led him astray and Pinocchio ran away again!



This time he went to Toyland with some other naughty boys. They were all changed into donkeys – ears, tails and all!

Pinocchio became a donkey in a circus. One day he fell and hurt his leg as he was jumping through the hoop. This made him lame, so he was sold for his skin to be made into a drum.

His new master threw him into the sea to drown – and he became a puppet again.



Pinocchio's adventures still weren't over. As he lay at the bottom of the sea, he was swallowed by a shark. It was the same terrible shark that had swallowed his father Geppetto – and Geppetto was still alive! Pinocchio made a plan, and led him out through the shark's mouth to safety.

Now Pinocchio worked so hard to look after his poor father that the fairy forgave him for the third and final time, and gave him his wish.

So – at last – he became a real live boy.



# A History of *Pinocchio*

The story of *Pinocchio*, a puppet who wants to be a real boy, is perhaps the most popular children's story ever to have come out of Italy. It was written by a journalist called Carlo Collodi.

The story was originally written as a serial for a children's magazine and the first instalment was published in July 1881. In 1883 the complete story was published in book form and it quickly became a bestseller.

When M. A. Murray first translated *Pinocchio* into English in 1892, its popularity spread to Britain and America.

Undoubtedly the best-known version of the story today is the one dramatized in the 1940 Disney animated film.

Ladybird's 1979 retelling, written by Audrey Daly, captures all the magic and adventure of the original tale.



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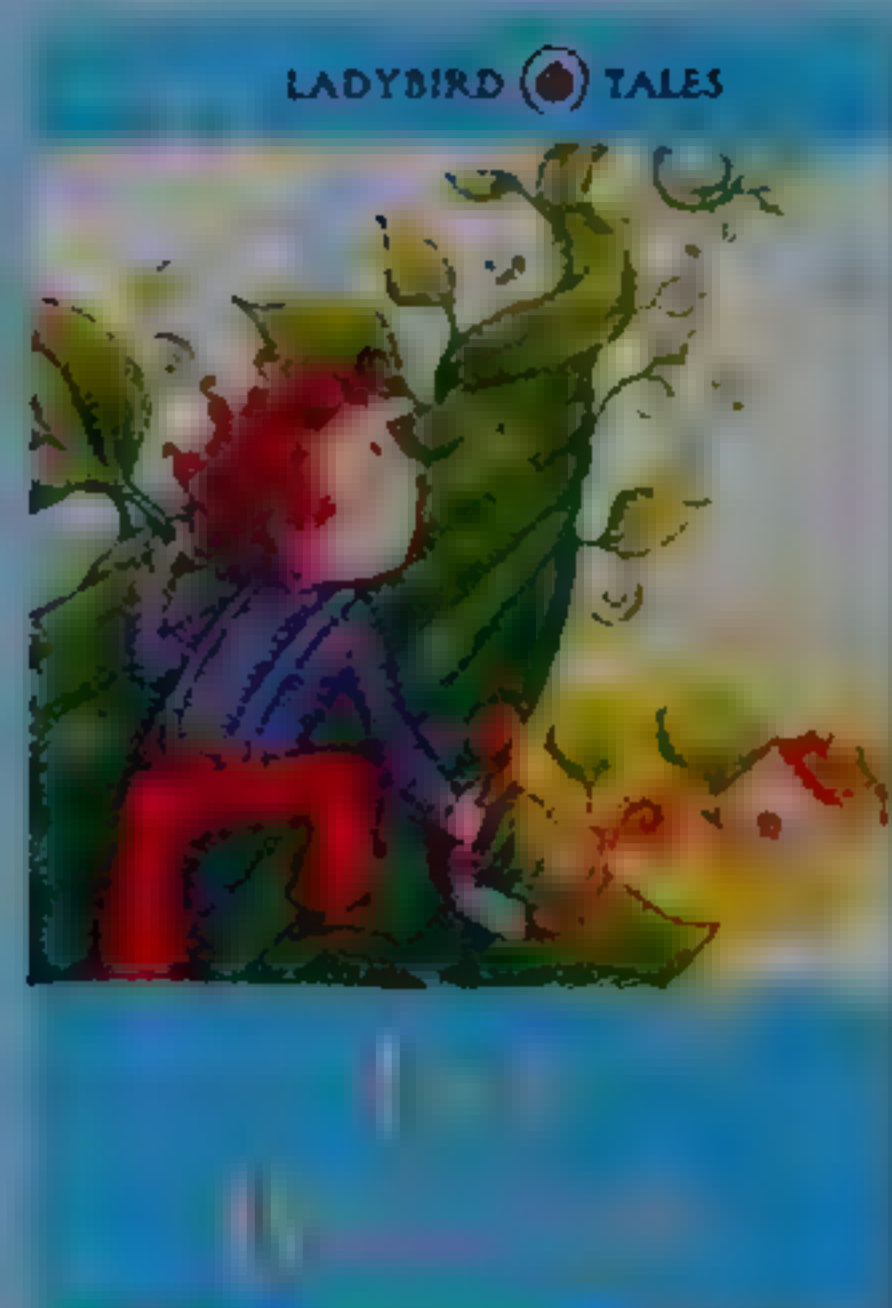
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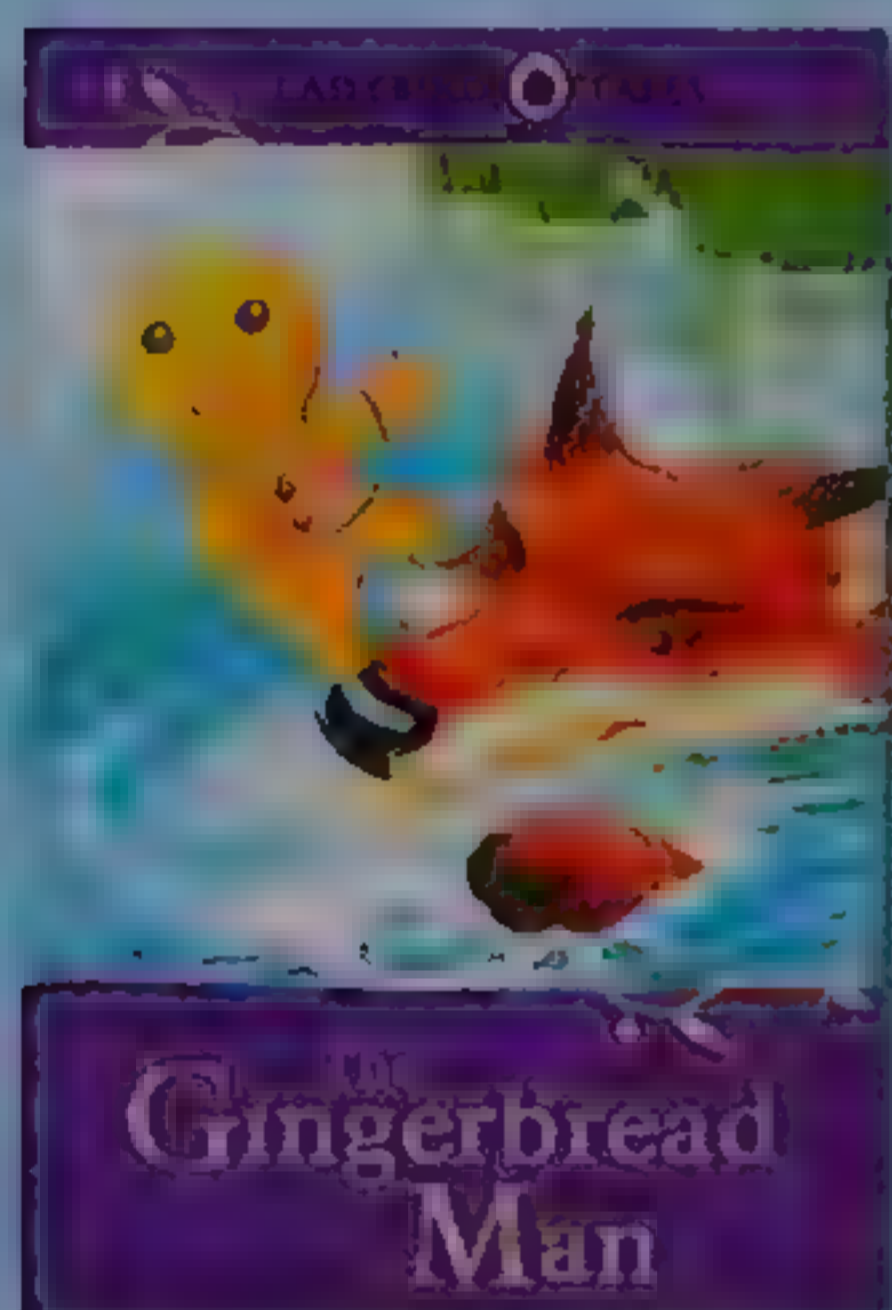
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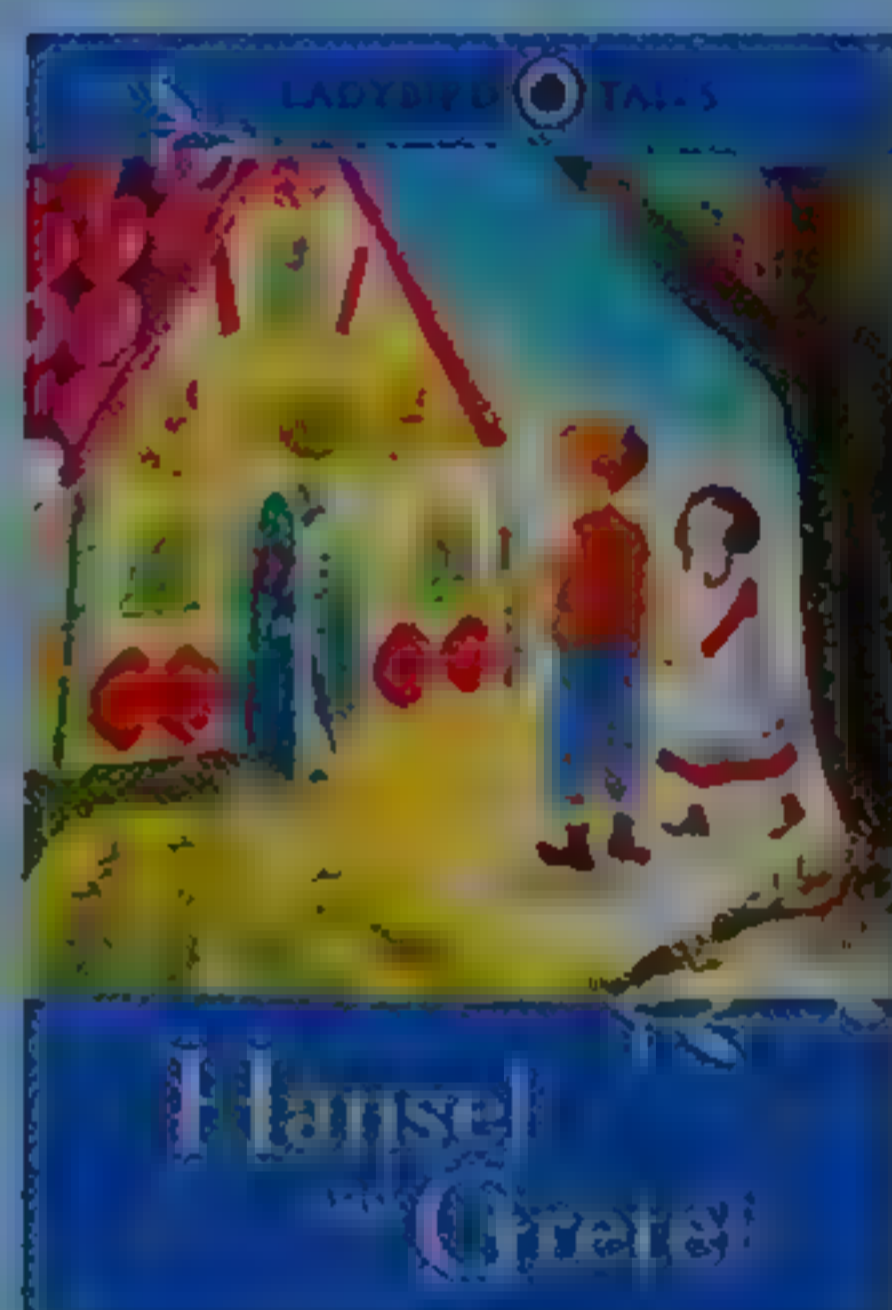
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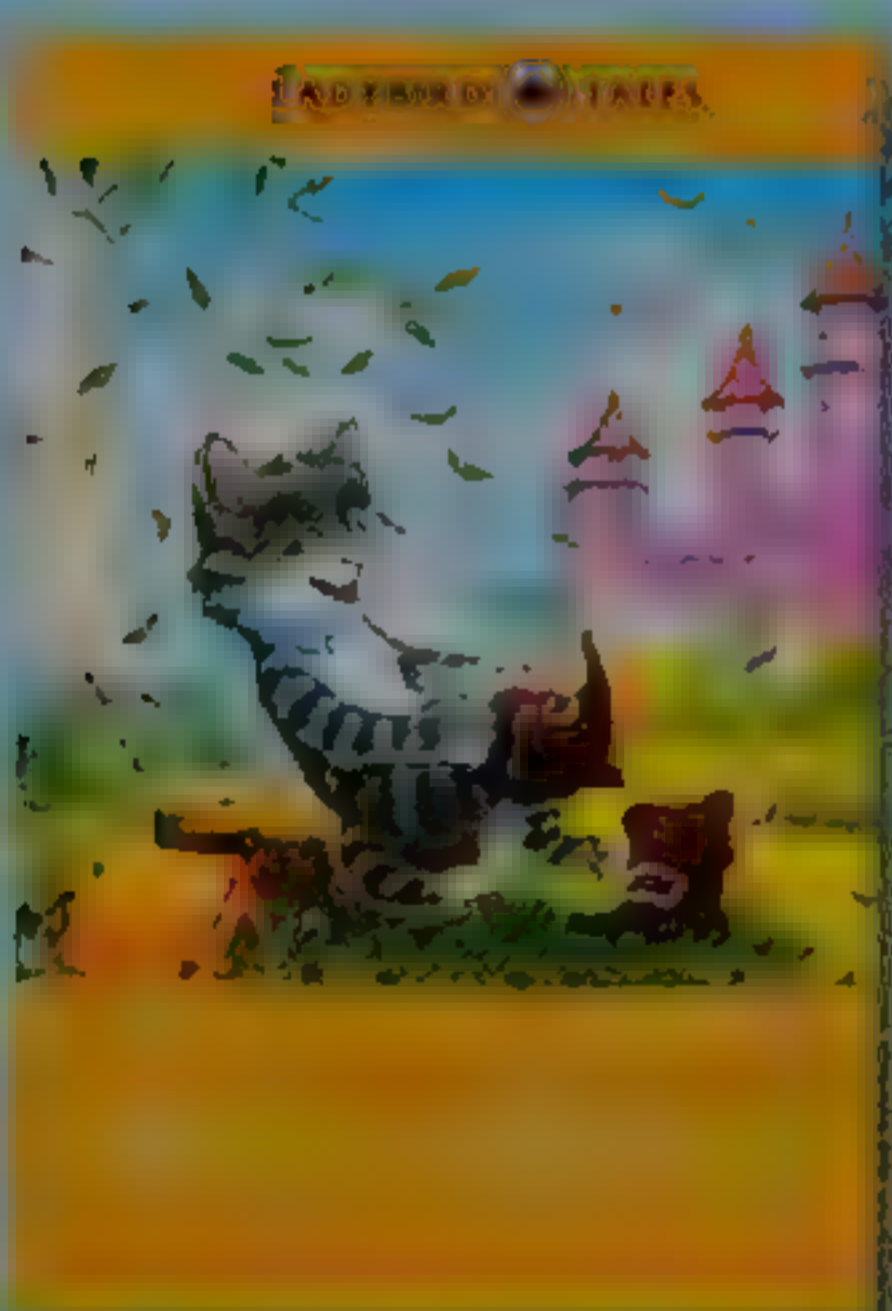
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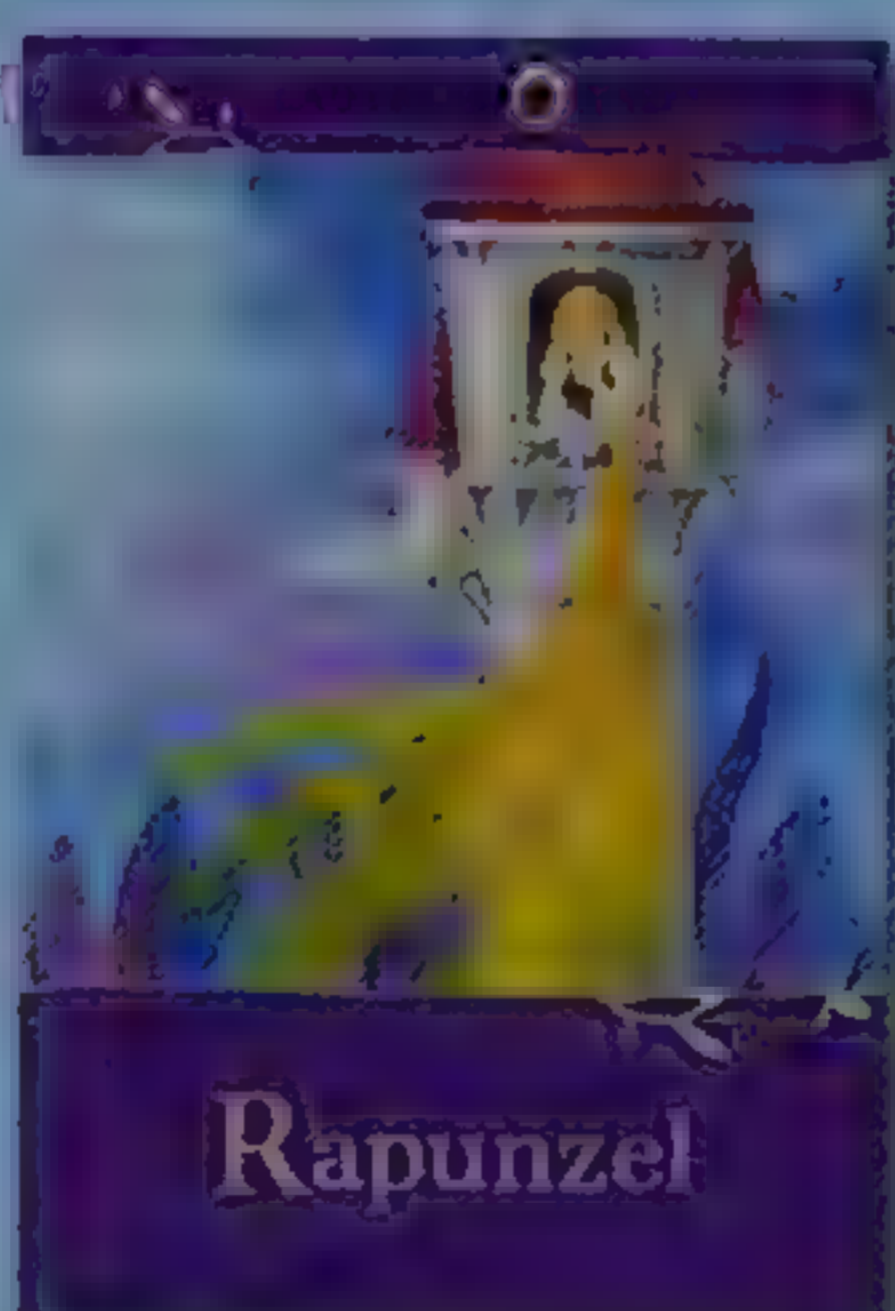
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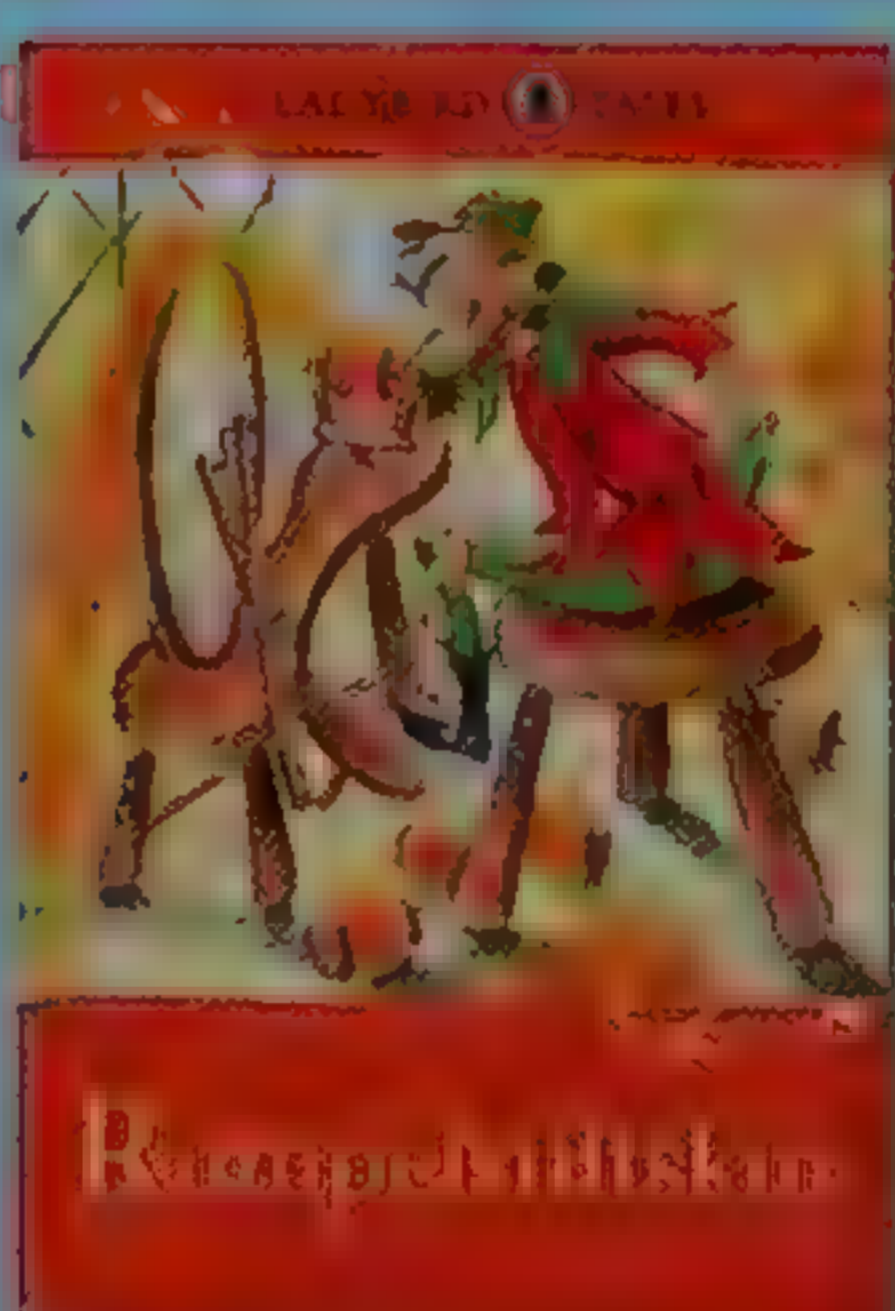
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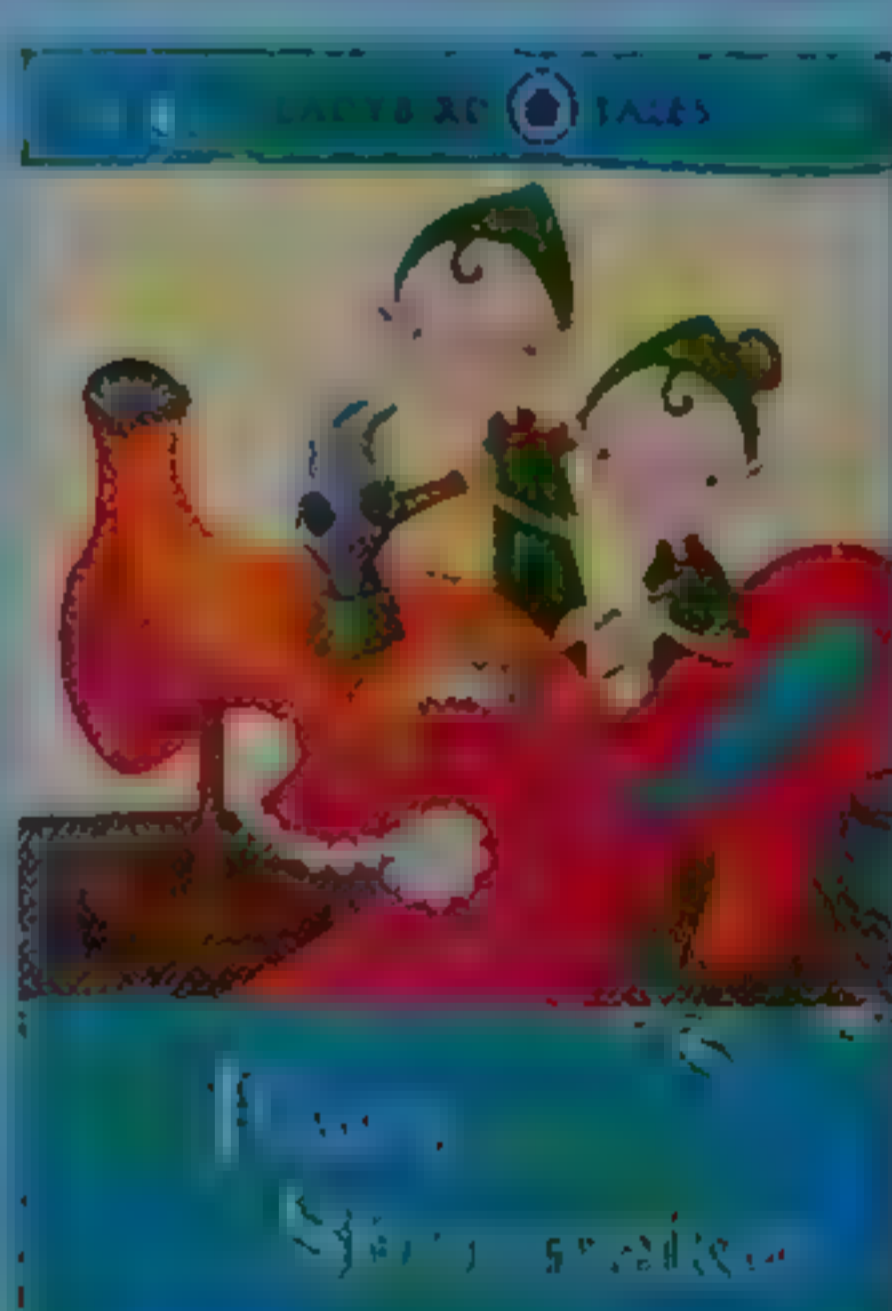
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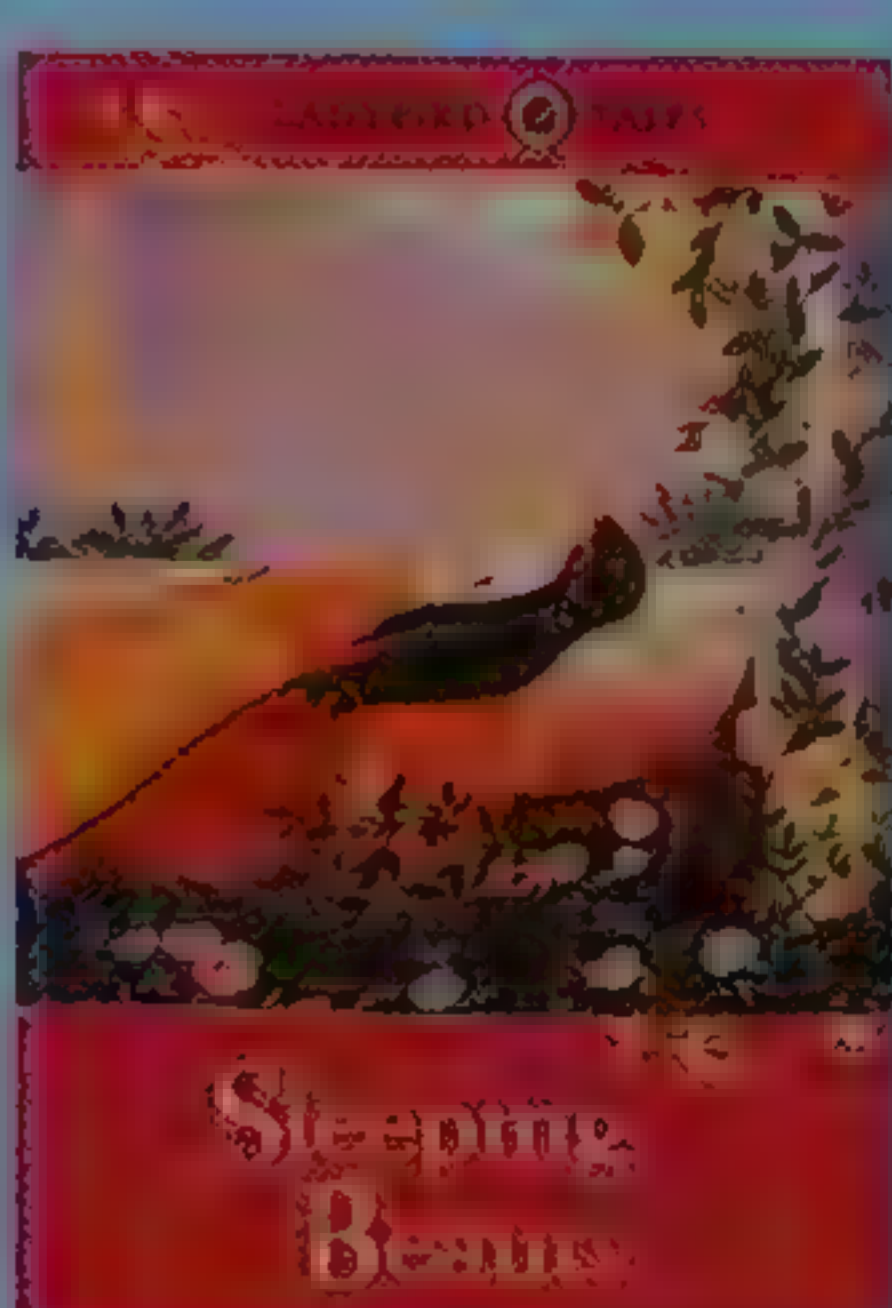
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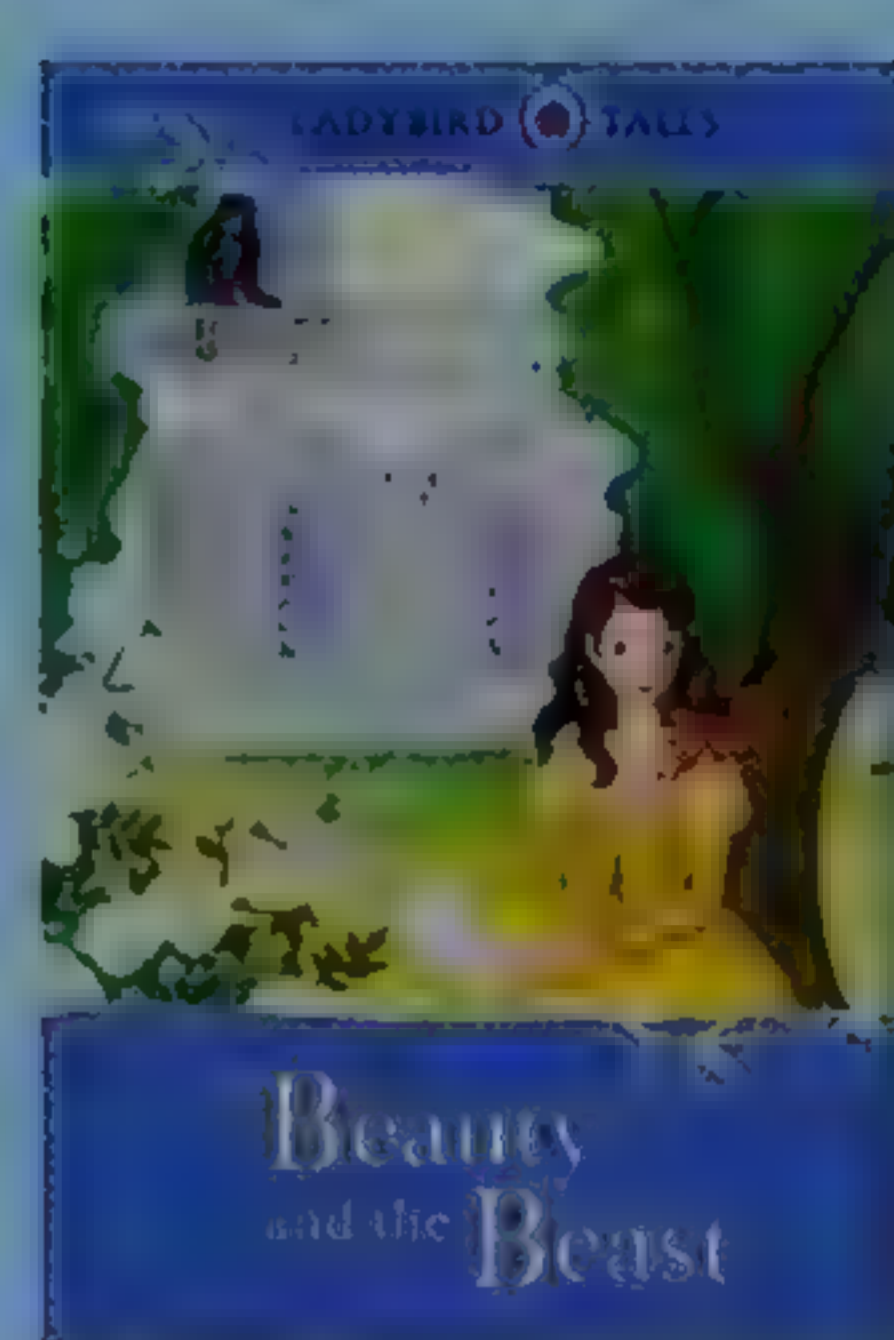
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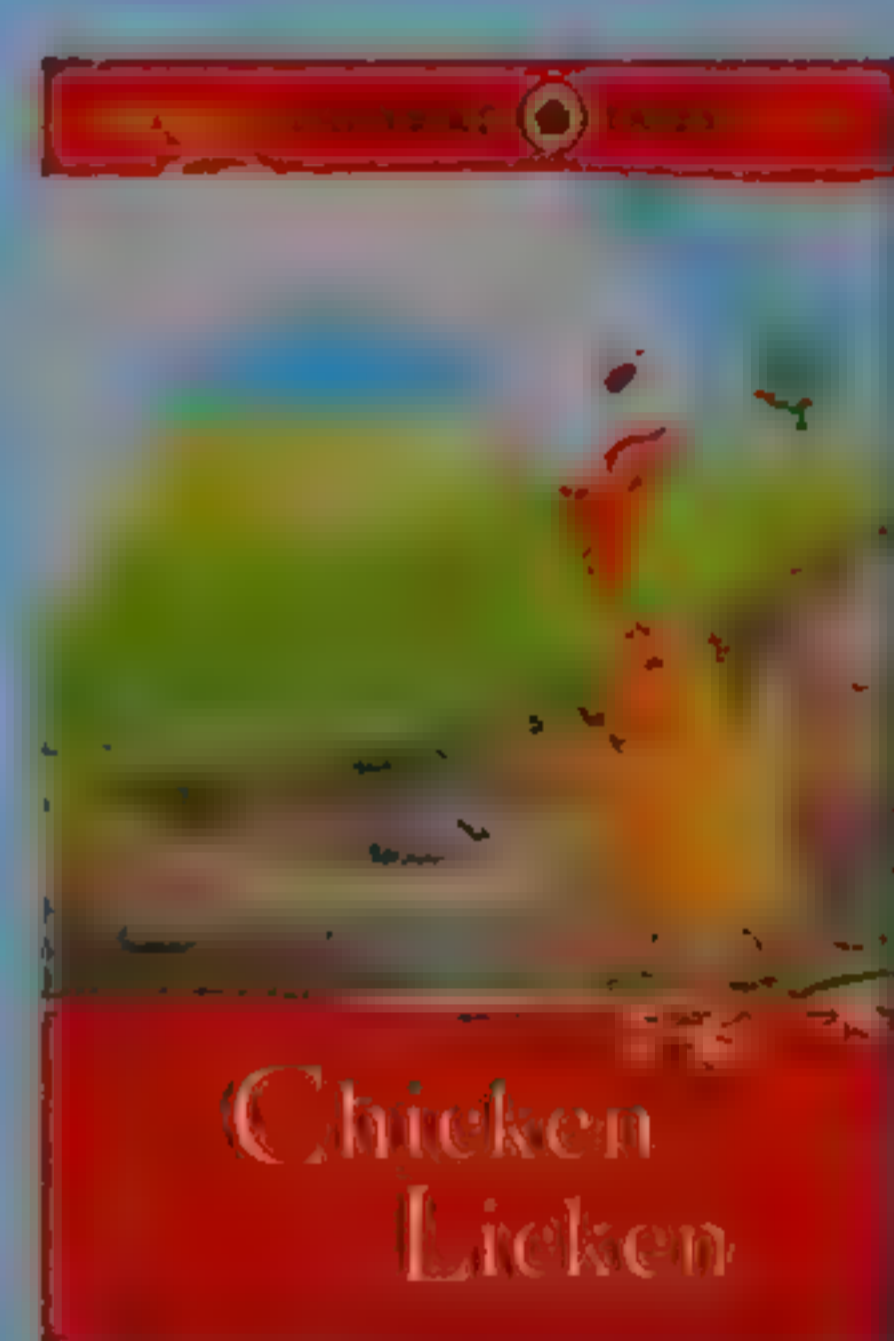
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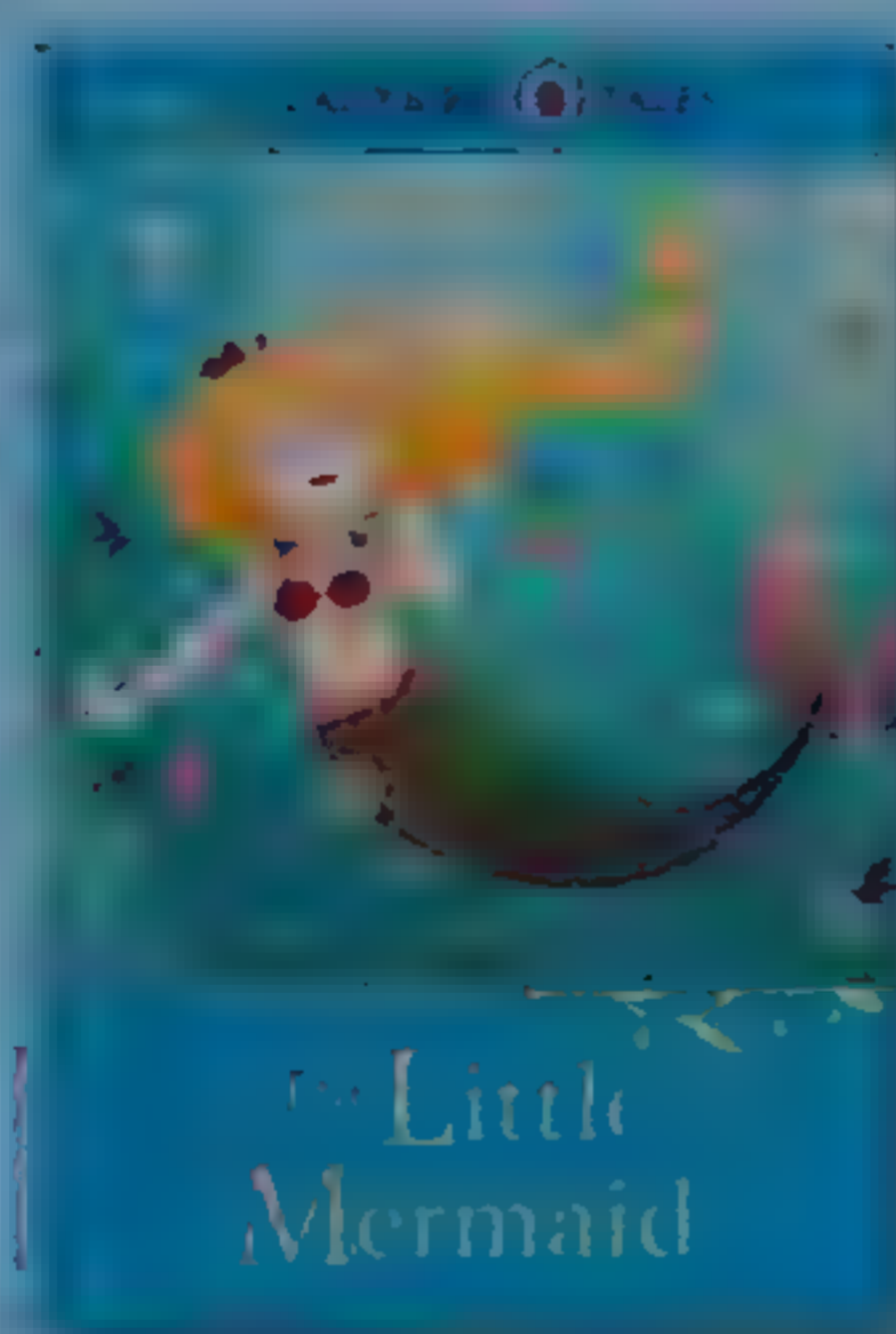
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